

State Representative
Jack Cairnes

P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

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**Please join me for a
Town Hall Meeting**

Date: March 17th
Time: 10am to noon
Place: Covington Library
27100 164th Ave SE

State Representative
Jack Cairnes

Report to the 47th District • 2001 Legislature

Olympia office

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Committees:

Finance, co-chair
Criminal Justice and Corrections
Financial Institutions and Insurance

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**Legislative information on the
internet:** www.leg.wa.gov

**State government on the
internet:** www.access.wa.gov

Dear Friends,

As it has been the past two years, the 2001 legislative session will be an interesting one, as the House is again evenly divided with 49 Republican and 49 Democrat members. It's critical that we work together and I will continue to work as best I can to represent you as effectively as possible.

The job of building the 2001-03 budget is now in the hands of the Legislature and I have confidence it can be done. We must prioritize to provide a responsive budget plan that works this year, next year, and the biennium after that. You deserve our best effort to provide safe schools, congestion-free roads, a healthy environment and viable economy. But, we must also keep enough money in the state's reserves as signals point to a possible economic downturn.

I look at this year as an opportunity to change the status quo. We must forget the old ways of solving problems by just spending more of your hard-earned tax dollars. It's time for Washington's legislators to lead the way, abandoning the politics of the past and work together to get things done.

Please let me know if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns by contacting my Olympia office by mail, phone, e-mail, or through the toll-free Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.

Sincerely,

Jack Cairnes
Jack Cairnes



INSIDE: TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK



Please
place
stamp
here



State Representative
Jack Cairnes

P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

YOUR TAX DOLLARS IN 2001...

The Legislature will write a two-year state budget this year, and forecasts indicate state revenue will be down for the 2001-03 biennium. Plus, the budget will be impacted by November’s voter-approved education initiatives Initiative 732, which granted the teachers a cost-of-living allowance, and Initiative 728, establishing the school improvement fund to reduce class size. Funding the initiatives will mean fewer dollars for other programs. The budget-writing decisions in the months ahead are not unlike the budgeting choices facing families and businesses - we must learn to balance the state’s checkbook while providing needed services.

Gov. Gary Locke’s Proposed Budget:

- Spends \$22.726 billion
- Makes \$342 million in spending cuts
- Adds \$1.2 billion in new spending
- Spends \$425 million more than estimated revenue for the 2001-03 biennium.
- Transfers \$170 million from the emergency reserve fund to pay for transportation – supposedly enough to pay for maintenance and preservation.

... & REASONABLE LAND USE

Property taxes and the Growth Management Act remain high on my priority list. As a general contractor, I have seen government regulation through the GMA make it virtually impossible for young people, the working poor or even the middle-class to realize the dream of home ownership. And those who have been lucky enough are slowly being taxed out of your neighborhoods.

Protecting the character of our state doesn’t have to come at the expense of the next generation. For 2001, I was named co-chairman of the House Finance Committee, and will oversee all legislation regarding state revenue - be it a tax deferment, credit, decrease or increase. Eliminating the state portion of property tax will be an issue I introduce before my committee – and it won’t be easy – but I will continue fighting for smaller government and lower taxes.

LET'S GET MOVING ON TRANSPORTATION

Our state economy relies on an efficient and effective transportation system. The Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation, a panel of elected officials, business members and citizens, spent two years studying the state's 20-year transportation needs. The BRC recommended spending \$50 billion over 20 years to improve our entire transportation system. However, the BRC did not study how effectively our transportation dollars are spent. For example, the amount of money spent on environmental mitigation is staggering. We must better balance the need to move people and crops, while continuing to protect our natural resources.

- Transportation issues are divided by region, district, county, and the individual needs of our state, not political party
- We must get people moving safely on our highways again
- Reducing congestion must be a top priority
- One of the surest ways to maintain economic growth is to provide for enhanced mobility

EDUCATION

Each and every child in our state deserves a chance to succeed and every teacher needs the tools to improve learning. We as lawmakers must provide an education system that includes highly-trained and accountable educators who are required to demonstrate mastery. The many educators who go above and beyond should also be rewarded.

Let’s also look at options such as alternative certification to get experts into the classroom. I welcome Gov. Locke’s call to deregulate more schools in order to bring new solutions and innovations. Now is not the time to abandon our efforts. Let’s not give up the fight to reach higher standards as successful, educated citizens make our economy stronger.



Rep. Cairnes welcomes young people to The Capitol. Danielle Lee was a page in Olympia from Jan. 15 to 19. For information on becoming a page, contact Rep. Cairnes’ office at (360) 786-7858.

Cut here ✂

Tell me what's important to you

Please rank each of the following issues on a scale of one to five, with one being very important and five being not important to you. I also invite you to include your comments below. If you’d like more information on the progress of issues that are important to you, please provide an address or e-mail address and I’ll be glad to keep you informed.

- ____ Taxes and spending
- ____ Education
- ____ Prescription drug costs
- ____ Traffic congestion and safety
- ____ Environment
- ____ Limiting state regulations
- ____ Preventing crime/Public safety
- ____ Controlling energy costs
- ____ Other _____

Comments: _____

☐ Please send me more information on the issues that I’ve indicated are more important to me:

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____